

The Newcroft Club

The Newcroft Club Ltd registered with Companies House No.15051190

Newnham Croft Primary School, Chedworth Street, CAMBRIDGE CB3 9JF

NEWSLETTER: January 2025



Dear Parents,

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy 2025!

We had an enjoyable winter holiday club – the rain mainly stayed away, and indoors we kept busy with some great cooking and craft activities:

The cooking star this time went to our homemade vegetable soup. The children worked cooperatively, peeling, chopping and stirring- it ended up looking like an enormous quantity in the pot, so much in fact that we offered a portion to any child who wanted some at lunchtime. It was surprisingly popular with some children coming back for seconds, until in the end there was just enough for the actual cooks to take home their allotted portion. It was a new recipe too - one we will be keeping!

Winter themed crafts included making various decorations, as well as snow globes and sock snowmen. The children also decorated ceramic mugs which we then filled with the makings of several cups of hot chocolate (+marshmallows) for them to make and enjoy at home.



This activity was courtesy of the government HAF programme.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holiday-activities-and-food-programme>

Having been a participating holiday club in this programme since its inception, we hope that the current government will continue to maintain it.

Please spread the word about it to any families who you know who could be eligible, we will be happy explain how it works and to guide them through the application and booking process.

Change to Fridays at Afterschool Club:

Currently, demand for afterschool club on Fridays has lessened to such an extent that we can all fit comfortably into the community room and access the playground from there.

Please note that we are no longer using the hall on Fridays and collect your children from the community room instead.

Staff Update:

Dzvinka has left us to concentrate on her studies and likewise, 6th formers Lizzie and Katherine have opted to reduce their days to one afternoon per week. We are however, delighted to welcome Billy to the team working in the hall. Having also attended the school and club when he was younger, Billy has settled in well and can usually be found working outside in the playground. We also welcomed Marie to the team back in October. We were very excited to find someone with PARS Playwork experience! Marie works 5 days a week in the community room with the younger children.

Sadie has decided to add further studies to her workload and has just embarked on her L2 PARS course. PARS is an international NCFE certified qualification and one we hold in high esteem because it is wholly dedicated to helping Playwork professionals in their day to day work 'articulate, develop and evaluate Playwork Practice'(Newstead) on an ongoing basis. It is a very inspiring course which recognises and celebrates the value of free play in children's lives.

A list of staff and training to date can be found on our website www.thenewcroftclub.co.uk

Cancellation Notice Period:

To ensure the smooth running of the club we require a **full** half-term's notice of cancellation for afterschool club. This means that once a half-term is underway, the notice period will be from the following (full) half-term.

The notice period for Holiday Club bookings is 2 weeks.

Changes to booked days:

If space allows, it may be possible to swap the occasional day as long as it falls within the same week. If such swaps are needed on a permanent basis, please contact us to see if it is possible to amend your booking (subject to space being available).

Snack for Afterschool Club:

Please remember to provide your child with a (nut-free) nutritious 'play fuel' snack to start the afternoon, as they really require some calorific input after the long school day. We notice that children who forego this snack may exhibit signs of being 'hangry'- listless, easily upset and more prone to injury!

Parents of Reception children are asked to leave this snack in the clear plastic box which is placed at the school gate every morning. For children in Y1-Y6, please provide items which can survive a day in a rucksack or school bag without perishing, such as a sandwich, cereal bar, apples etc. Please can you also remind your child that sharing of food is not permitted due to potential allergens and the possibility of being 'forced' to share.

Please do not send your children in with sweets, chocolates or crisps either, as afterschool clubs are expected to adhere to the School Food Standards UK. Please see the link below for more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/school-meals-food-standards>

Absence:

Please remember that we operate independently from school, so the school office does not communicate absence from school with us, as they do not know which children attend afterschool club on any given day. Therefore, if your child is going to miss afterschool club, or arrive late, please let us know via email, phone or message. This saves us a lot of unnecessary time spent looking for children at the busy start of session. Kindly also let us know if someone who is not on your list of collectors will be collecting your child that day so that we do not have to try and reach you by phone before allowing them to leave.

Donations:

Thank you for some fabulous donations of arts and crafts materials, bike helmets, clothing and other toys, we really appreciate it. We would also like to give a big thank you for the wonderful big new TV that a parent has generously donated, making Holiday Club movie time and occasional Wii games much clearer and easier for all to see!

Holiday Clubs 2025:

Bookings are now open on Magicbooking for the Spring Half-Term Holiday Club which we are running during the week of Feb 17 – Feb 21. We can't wait to start planning for it! Dates for the other holiday clubs this year can be found on our website.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. As usual, a copy will be available to read on the website as well. Please don't hesitate to phone or email us if you have any questions or concerns.

Warm wishes,
Maureen and Sadie

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